THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) A criminal case has been registered on 22-1-1990 by the CBI. On the request of the Indian authorities, six Swiss Bank Accounts have been frozen by the Swiss authorities on 26-1-1990. A letter rogatory has been given to the Swiss authorities on 9-2-90. Further investigations are in progress.

Rise in the prices of paper for book publishing

1718. SHRI p. N. SUKUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of paper needed for publishing books have increased enormously during the recent years;

(b) whether the said price rises have adversely affected the book publishing industry in India and this fact was adequately brought out at the International Book Fair recently held in Delhi;

(c) whether the matter has been studied by Government- and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to encourage book publishing industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) The price of paper has increased by about 40 per cent in the average over the last one and a half years on account of substantia] increase in the prices of various inputs that go into production.

Increase in the price of paper is a factor which has adversely affected the publishing; industry; and this was brought out in discussions at the various seminars organised during the Ninth World Book Fair, 13—18, February, 1990 held at New Delhi, as was also seen in the prices of books on display.

(d) Subject to ceilings, white printing paper is supplied at subsidised rates for the Education sector for production of School Text Books. The following schemes| activities are also being undertaken by the National Book Trust, India to encourage Book Publishing Industry;

(i) 'scheme for the subsidised publication of books;

(ii) an exploratory scheme to encourage private publishers and voluntary agencies to produce reading material for for the continuing education of neo-literates and school drop-outs;

(iii) an exploratory scheme to encourage private publishers and voluntary agencies to produce books for children;

(iv) scheme to set up a National Centre for Children's Literature.

(v) organisation of book fairs, book festivals and National Book Week;

(vi) participation in international book fars to promote export of Indian publications;

(vii) scheme (for financial: assistance to registered voluntary organisations for holding book exhibitions|book festivals|book fairs to augment book promotional activities and

(viii) Readers'. Club movement.

Foreign visits of investigating officers in connection with Bofors nay-©ffs

1719. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress have been made by Government since December 28fh, 1989